

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4. (canceled).

Claim 5. (currently amended): A method of therapy for treating a herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus ~~diseases associated with degenerative intervertebral disc~~ characterized by directly administering an active ingredient comprising MMP-7 ~~one or more human-derived proteases~~ to the affected site of ~~a disease associated with degenerative intervertebral disc~~ the herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus.

Claims 6-8. (Canceled).